



Husbandry Practices Affecting Influenza Vulnerability?

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Background

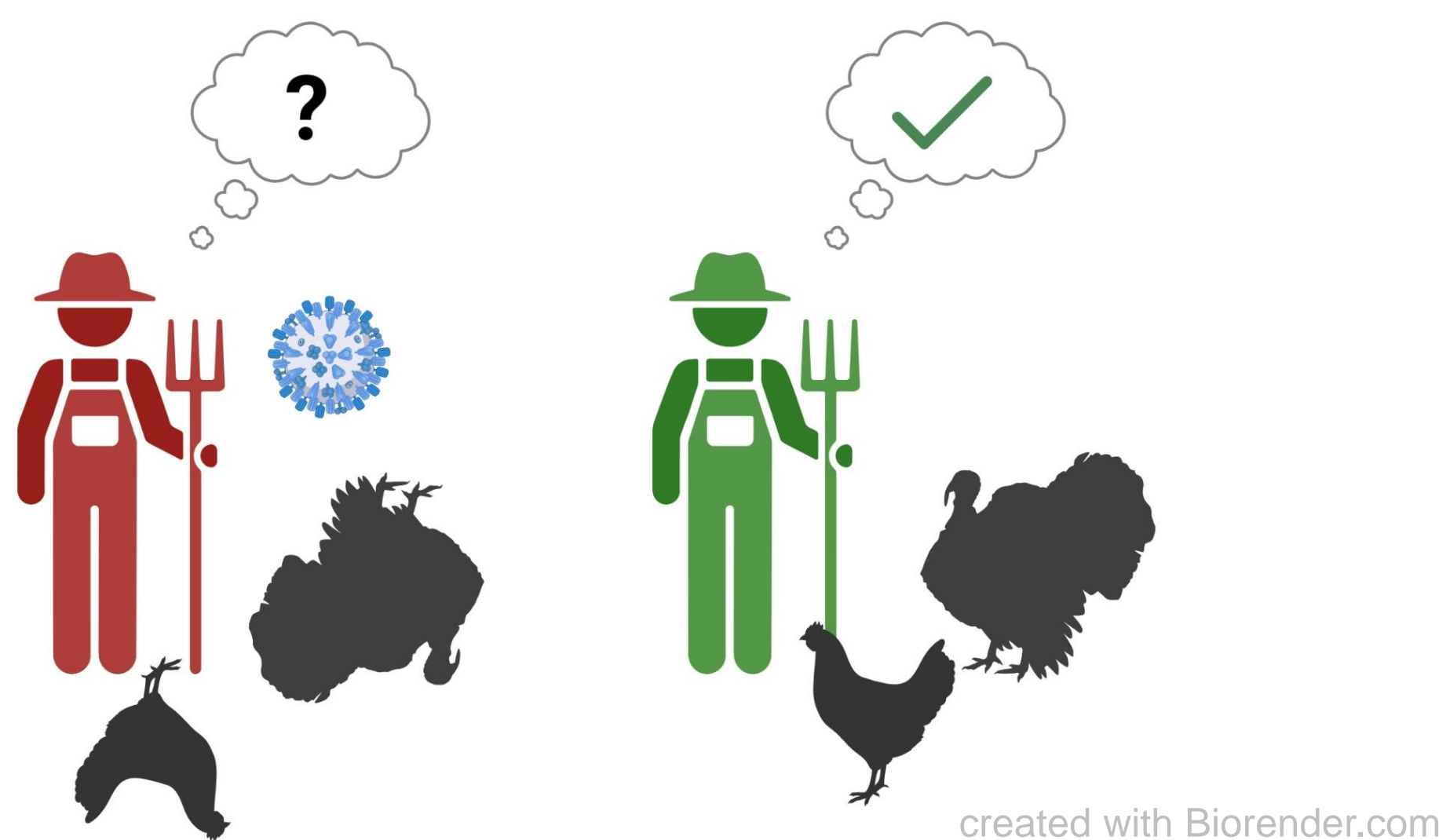


Outbreaks (78) of avian influenza in poultry in Germany 2023 (01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023), source: TSN

- major threat to the poultry industry from **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)**
- endemic in Central Europe
- farms being affected differently despite similar geographical location, type of farming and apparently comparable risk of entry
- particularly Lower Saxony severely affected in the recent years due to high density of poultry
- reduction of the risk of virus entry through **biosecurity measures**
- effectiveness of measures decisively influenced by human behavior
- little known about the **motivations of poultry farmers**

Methods

1. Case-control study



KAP-questionnaire („Knowledge“, „Attitude“, „Practice“)

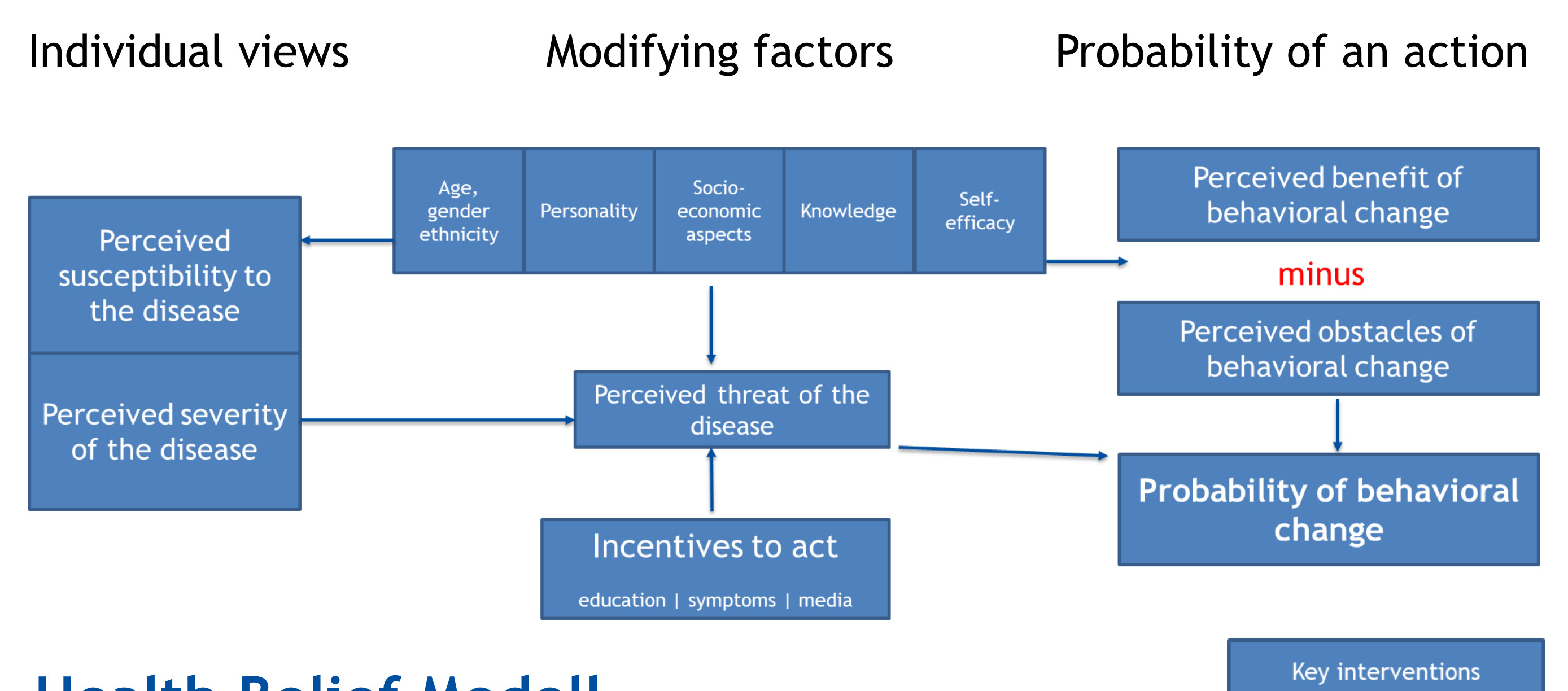
- Lower Saxony
- 20 cases (at least 2 outbreaks since 2016)
- 40 controls (no outbreaks since 2016)
- farm manager and one employee per farm
- evaluation of biosecurity
- regression analysis

Current status (November 2024)

- ✓ identification of case (using TSN/TSK NI) and control farms (random selection, 2 per case farm)
- ✓ KAP-questionnaire (4 sections, 94 questions)
- ✓ biosecurity checklist (8 sections, 54 questions)
- ✓ pilot study in 3 farms in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony

- recruitment and visits of identified farms in progress

2. Cross-sectional study

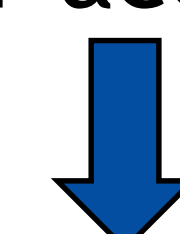


Health Belief Modell

- all over Germany
- online survey

Aims

- evaluation of improved understanding of farmer's motivations and obstacles of biosecurity measures
- regarding long-term application of biosecurity measures
- development of better accepted interventions



fewer outbreaks of **HPAI** in poultry farms